



8th Ward Neighborhood Group

# The Patroller

Meeting the 2nd Tuesday of Every Month

Seibert Church; 10th & Allen Sts.

*Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 10th - 7PM*

## March 2009

### Contact Us

#### E-Mail:

**kim8thward@yahoo.com**

**Kim Beitler**

President, External

**Bonnie Wachter 484-695-1967**

President, Internal

**Brian Engler**

Vice-President

**Jim Bast**

Treasurer

**Minnie Nathan**

Secretary

**Charlie Seifert**

Board Member

**Carlos Bernardi**

Board Member

**Vivian Bernardi**

Board Member

**Paul Fiske**

Board Member

### Guest Speaker For March Meeting



Allentown Rescue Mission's

Executive Director

**Gary Millsbaugh**

Come and learn about the Allentown Rescue Mission and the positive effects their programs are having in our neighborhood.

Have you seen this Clean Team in our neighborhood?

They recently cleaned the area of 8th & Sumner Sts. The Clean Team is an ambitious group of people, who are struggling but willing to work hard to be productive members of our community. We thank them for their excellent work.

### Crime Watch Banquet—You're Invited

Mark your calendar for the Annual Leonard Buck Crime Watch Banquet. The dinner is scheduled for Thursday; April 16th, 2009 at the Fearless Fire Company. Tickets must be ordered in advance and will be available for purchase at our March 10th meeting. Tickets are \$22.00/pp. Dinner is buffet style. Our neighborhood group will be in attendance along with 18 other neighborhood groups representing Allentown Crime Watch. It would be great to have you join us. For more information come to our March meeting and ask for Kim or call Ben Gress – Banquet Coordinator at 610-797-2249. Two individuals will be awarded Certificates of Nomination for involvement in our group.

### Graffiti is Illegal—Report It

Graffiti is once again becoming more prevalent in our neighborhood. If you see graffiti in progress, call 911 and give the best info. you can concerning what the individuals look like and their location. DO NOT CONFRONT YOURSELF—Call the Police. I would recommend giving your name and number in case the officer(s) responding need more info. NOTE—You can report with CHEC-mate or anonymously if you choose.

If you see properties anywhere in the City of Allentown (even though they may not be your property) with graffiti on them, please report it to 610-437-8729 to put it on the list for removal. So much graffiti is going up we need everyone to do their part to make sure it gets reported and removed ASAP.



YES!! I am very pleased with the work that the 8th Ward Neighborhood Group is doing and I would like to make a donation to support their many efforts such as the newsletter, meetings, and community events



SORRY. I am not able to help the 8th Ward Neighborhood Group with a financial contribution at this time but I would like to help in other ways. Please contact me with how I can help.

You can make your check or money order payable to:

**8th Ward Neighborhood Group**

& Send It to: **706 North 8th St.,**

**Allentown, PA 18102**

Thank you for your support!

## Personal Crimes—Part 1

Captain Ed Bailey - Independence Kentucky Police Department

Most criminals are opportunists. This means they take advantage of promising situations that are presented to them. The key to crime prevention is to remove the opportunities for crime from our daily activities.

Primary strategies for dealing with any type of crime include the following:

- ❑ **Be Alert-** Don't be afraid, but look around you and be aware of your surroundings. If you are uncomfortable or afraid, change your activity and report your suspicions to someone.
- ❑ **Be Determined-** If you are in an unfamiliar or lonely area, quicken your pace. Walk purposefully with your head up as if you are going to meet someone.
- ❑ **Walk Carefully-** Walk in well lighted areas. Avoid dark doorways and alleys. Travel and shop with companions whenever possible, especially at night. You are always safer with a group.
- ❑ **Plan Ahead-** try to arrange your schedule to times and areas that present the least risk. If you should find yourself in an uncomfortable situation, always head for an area where there are more people.
- ❑ **Trust Your Instincts-** If you are in a situation where your intuition tells you that something is not right, act on those instincts. Don't ever be afraid to call the police or ask someone to call the police for you.
- ❑ **Report All Crimes-** If you become a victim of a crime, report the incident to the police as soon as possible. Not only does this increase the chance of catching the offender, but it may also help put you in touch with other needed services such as victim assistance and victim compensation.

### Mugging (Armed and Unarmed Robbery)

Mugging is a street crime that can happen anywhere. It usually takes place in an uncrowded area. Muggers select isolated victims. If you are mugged, the criminal may:

- ❑ Show you a weapon of some type and demand your money.
- ❑ Indicate they have a weapon they will use if you don't give them your money or follow their instructions.
- ❑ Physically attack or overpower you and tell you they will injure you if you don't give them your money.

Your best course of action is to comply with the mugger. It is not worth risking your safety for a few dollars. If you are carrying a purse, an option is to throw the purse in one direction and run away from the direction you threw the purse. The same strategy can be used with a wallet or money clip. The mugger's interest should lie in the cash. If possible, do not allow the mugger to force you into a car or take you to a more secluded area. If he or she wants to take you elsewhere, your main objective becomes survival. Chances are you will be better off risking injury and surviving rather than going with the mugger. Most street muggings are of very short duration and the mugger only wants the money without resistance so he or she can escape as soon as possible.

If you are unable to run or feel you cannot escape the situation, it is recommended you sit down on the ground before you are knocked down. Never risk broken bones for money or property. If you are assaulted after sitting on the ground, tuck your chin towards your chest and put your hands on the back of your head. In this position, your arms will protect your head from kicks or blows. Start shouting for help or the police. Make noise and call

## Numbers To Know

March 2009

<b>Police-Fire-Ambulance</b>	911
<b>Police –Non-emergency</b>	610-437-7751
<b>Chief Maclean</b>	610-437-7777
<b>Police—Vice Unit</b>	610-437-7726
<b>State Rep. Jenn Mann</b>	610-821-5577
<b>8th Ward BW—Bonnie</b>	484-695-1967
<b>City Planning</b>	610-437-7613
<b>Recycling/ Graffiti Removal</b>	610-437-8729
<b>Code Enforcement</b>	610-437-7695
<b>Zoning Office</b>	610-437-7630
<b>Health Bureau</b>	610-437-7760
<b>Mayor Pawlowski</b>	610-437-7546

attention to the assault. Your objective is to survive the attack.

If you are grabbed from behind and the attacker has his or her arm around your throat, turn your head so your chin is pointing towards the attacker's elbow. This will allow you to breathe and if you can breathe, you can think. Remember, your intent is not just escape but survival. As the victim, you have to decide what your options are and what course of action you need to take. This may be the time to fight or faint. You want to be away from this person either by them getting what they want and leaving, by being rescued or by escaping.

You can reduce your chance of being mugged by reducing opportunity. Here are some tips to reduce opportunity:

- ❑ Don't exhibit large amounts of cash when shopping or banking. Muggers can select victims by observing how people handle their money. Carry only what you need to conduct your transactions.
- ❑ Don't wear expensive jewelry or watches if you don't need to while shopping. Avoid calling attention to yourself.
- ❑ Have pension or social security checks direct deposited to the bank. Transact business by check if possible. Reduce the amount of business that requires you to go to the bank.

If you are suspicious and think you are being followed or watched, go into a store, public place, or business and call the police. If you are in an isolated area, scream and shout, yell "FIRE", call attention to yourself. There is a good chance this action will scare off the mugger.

### REMEMBER...

**The keys to good prevention techniques are BEING PREPARED AND PLANNING AHEAD.**

### ***CHEC-Mate Program***

Report all suspicious activity anonymously by becoming a CHEC-mate (Citizens Helping Eliminate Crime) Member. Come to our monthly meeting and ask for a card and/or get a few for your Allentown friends or neighbors. Please don't sit silent and expect others to call the police. Everyone has to take responsibility to report suspicious activity when they see it. We can only begin to clean up Allentown when good people come together and say we will no longer put up with illegal activity.

### ***Police Appreciation Day***

Wednesday; May 13th, 2009 is Police Appreciation Day and our neighborhood group along with Allentown Crime Watch will be hosting a Police Appreciation Lunch /Dinner for Allentown officers. We are in need of volunteers to help out on that day. Times available 8am-10pm. Must be an active member of our group and a CHEC-mate member. Please get more info or sign-up at our next meeting. Ask for Kim Beitler, Coordinator of Event for more info.

#### ***Allentown City Council Meetings—***

*Are you interested in hearing about your local government?*

*Want to know what legislation is being passed?*

*Tired of hearing about things in the Morning Call after the fact?*

*Come to the City Council Meetings.*

*Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month.*

*Have a concern to advise Council about? Speak at courtesy of the Floor – which starts promptly at 7PM.*

*\*Meetings for March are the 4th and 18th at City Council Chambers located in the 1st floor of City Hall*

### ***Not Receiving A Newsletter?***

There are some areas in our neighborhood that are no longer receiving our newsletter due to a loss of some volunteers. If that's what happened to you, you could help us by delivering newsletters in you neighborhood or on a block near where you live. We definitely could use your help. Sign up today or find out more information by calling Bonnie at 484-695-1967.

Thank you, Kim

### ***Know the Criminals In Your Neighbor-***

**Developed by John Walsh from Americas Most Wanted.**

[www.familywatchdog.us](http://www.familywatchdog.us)

When you visit this site you can enter your address and a map will pop up with your house as the small icon of a house and red, blue, green, dots surrounding your entire neighborhood. When you click on these dots a picture of a person will appear with an address and the description of the crime he or she had committed. The best thing is that you can show your children pictures and see how close these people live to your home or school. This site was developed by John Walsh from Americas Most Wanted. Another tool to help us keep our kids safe.

### ***Sign-Up for Youth Baseball and Softball***

Major league baseball teams are reporting to spring training and that means baseball and softball season is right around the corner.

The City of Allentown's Youth Baseball/Softball League is scheduled to begin on May 4, 2009 and is planned to run through the beginning of July. Allentown's Baseball/Softball League offers separate divisions for boys 5-15 years of age and girls 5-12 years of age.

All sign-ups are to be done through your local A-Youth organization. If your son or daughter is interested in joining a team for the 2009 season, please visit

[www.allentownrecreation.com](http://www.allentownrecreation.com) for the contact information for your local A-Youth organization.

The Allentown Recreation Bureau and A-Youth organizations are looking for qualified coaches to volunteer their services to the city's youth. If you are interested in coaching a baseball and/or softball team during the 2009 season, please call the Recreation Bureau at 610-437-7750 or contact the A-Youth organization closest to you.

The City of Allentown's Youth Baseball/Softball League is an excellent opportunity for children to get some exercise, increase proficiency in baseball/softball skills and improve their knowledge of the game.

**Report Graffiti in Progress to 911  
or Report Graffiti You See on Any Property  
Call 610-437-8729**

## ***Home Buyers Supermarket***

April 25th, 2009 9AM to 4PM

The Palace - 623 Hanover Ave. Allentown

FREE Admission

Everything you need to know about buying a home in one room! Whether you're a first time home buyer or looking to make a move to a new neighborhood you will find many valuable resources.

Event highlights:

- Find answers to your home buying questions
- Get a free credit report while you wait
- View new property listings
- Learn about down payment assistance programs
- Get energy saving tips
- Learn about 3% fixed-rate loans for rental property owners
- Get insurance quotes
- Get cost estimates
- Free admission
- Food, fun & giveaways!

Live radio broadcast: Hola AM 1600, WLEV FM 100.7, and WAEB 790

This event is sponsored by Allentown's Bureau of Building Standards and Safety and the Allentown Redevelopment Authority. These organizations believe home ownership leads to strong neighborhoods with involved citizens that have a sense of pride in Allentown.

For more information call: 610.437.7690

## ***8th Ward Neighborhood Group Fundraiser—Help Us Out***

**The 8th Ward Neighborhood Group is doing a fundraiser with Pretzeltown Bakery and Coffee** located at 801 N 13th Street; Allentown. Pretzeltown has pretzels, sandwiches, funnelcakes, Italian ices, churros, cookies and more. We are selling Peel-A-Deal Coupon cards good for Pretzeltown Bakery items. Each card costs \$10.00 and has a value of over \$30.00. The card supplies you with 12 coupons that can be used when you go to Pretzeltown Bakery. Four of those coupons are "no purchase necessary" and total an immediate value of \$12.00. For each card sold our neighborhood group will make \$6.00. Cards will become available at our March meeting and can be reserved by calling 610-432-8280. Please help out our group and buy your Peel-A-Deal card today.

## ***Allentown Vehicles Could Be Impounded***

**for the following reasons:**

### **72-Hour Violations – Abandoned on Street**

The City of Allentown has an ordinance which states that any vehicle parked on a public street or highway in the city for more than 72-hours may be considered to be an abandoned vehicle. These vehicles may be ticketed, towed and impounded if they remain unmoved for at least 72 hours.

### **Unauthorized Vehicles on Private Property**

Unauthorized vehicles on private property may be towed at the request of the property owner.

### **Too Close to Fire Hydrant**

Vehicles may be towed if they are parked too close to or directly on a fire hydrant.

### **Scofflaw (Unpaid parking tickets with warrant)**

If you have unpaid parking tickets that have resulted in a warrant, or if you are on a payment plan with the Magistrate for parking tickets and you miss a payment, your vehicle may be towed and impounded.

### **Scofflaw without warrants**

If our officer locates a vehicle that has 5 or more unpaid, outstanding and unappealed parking tickets, the vehicle will be immobilized (booted) until the tickets and a boot release fee have been paid. If payment is not made within 72 hours, the vehicle will be towed and impounded.

## ***HARB Proposes Color Guidelines***

At a special tutorial session held by the Allentown Historical and Architectural Review Board in mid-January, neighborhood representatives were asked to comment on possible approaches to managing exterior color within the three Historic Districts. Based on the feedback received, it was decided to modify the historic district ordinance to include regulation of color. Any ordinance change, however, would have to go before City Council, where its outcome may depend on the amount of any public opposition received. As presently envisioned, the process would involve staff approval of color changes if they conform to a set of pre-approved colors. If other color options are proposed, they would need to go before HARB for approval.

*\*\*This would affect those properties that are in the designated Historic District Areas. This article was found in the Old Allentown Newsletter for Jan-March 2009.*